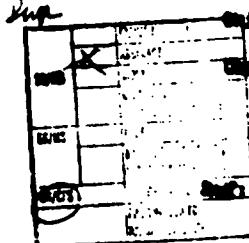


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHODS/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

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1. On 17 June 1955 an SIS source reported that one of his contacts had been approached by Josef HINZER, legal representative of the English firm, Polytechnic Travel Association. HINZER claimed that this organization was establishing offices throughout Austria, the real purpose of which was not to accommodate tourists, but to collect intelligence. HINZER asked whether this man, Richard KAUFER and LITZ, would be interested in handling the intelligence phase of Kahrleitner's Salzburg operation.

2. SIS files reveal that both KAUFER and KAUFER have been associated with or of interest to the SIS in the past. In addition to the Hugo LITZ mentioned in DIR 19849, who has a long record of suspected pro-Soviet sympathies, both HINZER and KAUFER are friends of Victor KIRCHNER, a former Vienna police officer and wartime British agent. KAUFER has, however, a quite shady reputation as, at worst, a possible KGB double agent. It is certain that SIS would not willingly include him in any of their operations. HINZER is a different matter, though, and for what we know of him, he could at present be working as a spy/developer for the British, and have hit on KAUFER as a good lead. However the structure of this purported intelligence system may be, they are in for a shock, since the story outlined in paragraph 1 above has been told to the Austrian State Police. If the British are interested in Polytechnic we should like to warn them that so far, at least as Austria is concerned, the jig is about up. We should also like to know however, whether someone else is sponsoring the group or if the whole affair is national.

3. We don't know what facilities you have for carrying out investigations on our own or how you play the game with the British (when we would like to bring in only if we are unable to identify the sponsor on our own) but we would appreciate greatly any information you could give us about Polytechnic. We know, for example, that the London bureau of the Association has about 200 employees which implies that Austria is by a long shot not the only country serviced. Just how widespread is this service? Can you find anything about MAY, MC STI, or SHRIER (see

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attached clipping) or WILSON? If you are in no position to assist us
in this affair without ringing the British, please let us know soonest
so that we may base our future action accordingly.

6 August 1955

Attachment newspaper clipping

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